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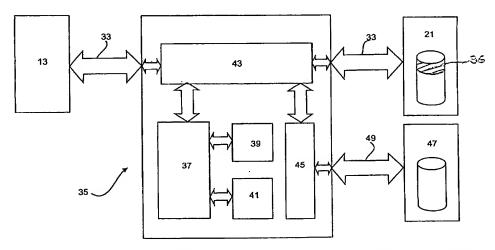
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(54) Title: SECURITY SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMPUTER OPERATING SYSTEMS

(57) Abstract: A security system for a computer operating system comprising a processor (37) that is independent of the host CPU (13) for controlling access between the host CPU (13) and a security partition formed in the storage device (21) for storing the operating system. A program memory (41) that is independent of the computer memory and the storage device (21) unalterably stores and provides computer programs for operating the processor (37) in a manner so as to control access to the security partition in the storage device (21). All data access by the host CPU (13) to the data storage device (21) is blocked before initialisation of the security system and is intercepted immediately after the initialisation under the control of the processor (37). The processor (37) effects independent control of the host CPU (13) and configuration of the computer (11) to prevent unauthorised access to the security partition on the storage device (21) during the interception phase. All users of the computer (11) are authenticated with a prescribed profile of access to the operating system files in the security partition on the storage device (21) and data access to the storage device remains blocked until a user of the computer (11) is correctly authenticated.

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*